



WY Outside



ORIGINS

In 2008, in response to the disconnect between children and the natural world, the Wyoming Recreation Action Team (REACT), a consortium of state and federal land management agencies working on recreation and tourism issues, established the WY Outside subcommittee. WY Outside was tasked to define the severity and consequences of the current situation and identify the issues, obstacles, and opportunities in working together to connect Wyoming children and families with the outdoors.

WY Outside is a coalition of federal, state, and non-profit groups who are working to reverse "Nature Deficit Disorder" as described by Richard Louv in *Last Child in the Woods*. The goal is to allow all Wyoming children to have the opportunity to develop a relationship with nature, experience recreational activities and lead healthy, active lives.

The value of the WY Outside partnership is in exploring synergies and working to support both individual and collective efforts and activities toward achieving our common goals for the betterment of Wyoming children and families.

CURRENT STATUS

The coalition continues to work to further this important effort and is seeking new partners, new advocates and new ideas. The WY Outside website is under development. For more information please contact Ashley Rooney at: 307-777-6560 or ashley.rooney@wyo.gov.

VISION

To foster the mind, body, and spirit of youth and families by inspiring a long-term appreciation of the Wyoming outdoors through education, interaction, and adventure

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- **The Wyoming Youth Congresses on Children and Nature** were held in the fall of 2009 and 2010 at Teton Science Schools in Jackson Hole, WY. The congresses, attended by exceptional 8th graders were a key step in reintegrating the outdoors and nature into the daily lives of Wyoming children.
- **Our Children and the Outdoors: Wyoming 2010** was a statewide survey used to gather baseline data on how much time our youth are spending outdoors. The survey found that the average 5-12 year old child spent 26.3 hours outside per week, or about 3.7 hours per day!
- **The WY Outside Resource Guide** is a web-based tool for families and communities to find and have access to child, youth, and family-friendly events, activities, and programs. Please visit: <http://gis.wyo.gov/wyoutsideresourceguide>.

